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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 1-14.

15. (Original) A method for predicting exceptions in a workflow instance comprising the steps of:

- a) preparing data from past workflow executions;
- b) generating at least one exception prediction model based on the prepared data; and
- c) using the exception prediction model to generate at least one prediction of an exception for a current instance of the workflow.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein exception prediction includes the steps of

building a process analysis table for a process definition of interest; adding labeling information to the process analysis table; and generating classification rules by employing data mining techniques.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the classification rules generated for each stage in a process are stored in a repository.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein at least one classification rule set generated for a process execution stage is executed to make predictions on at least one running process instance.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein at least one prediction is stored in a repository; wherein the prediction stored in a repository includes the exception being predicted and an indication of the accuracy of the prediction.

20. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the predictions are reported to the WfMS so that it can alter the execution of processes to try to avoid the exception;

21. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising:

reporting classification rules to a user.

selectively removing input data to refine classification rules; and

re-generating classification rules by employing data mining techniques.

22. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein when the classification rules are satisfactory to the user, storing the classification rules in a database.